## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

In Re: CM/ECF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL USER MANUAL FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA	) General Order No. 2005-14 )
GENE	ERAL ORDER
The Court now approves the attached	d CM/ECF Civil and Criminal User Manual for use
in conjunction with the filing and serving of	electronic documents in the United States District
Court for the Northern District of Indiana.	
The Clerk of this court is authorized	to make amendments to the format of the User
Manual, the telephone numbers contained th	erein, and the forms and attachments thereto without
formal court approval, as may be required fr	om time to time. All other amendments or
modifications must be approved by the court	t.
SO ORDERED.	
ENTERED: November 9, 2005	
/s/ Robert L. Miller, Jr.	/s/ Rudy Lozano
Robert L. Miller, Jr. Chief Judge	Rudy Lozano, Judge
/s/ Allen Sharp	/s/ Philip P. Simon
Allen Sharp, Judge	Philip P. Simon, Judge
/s/ William C. Lee	/s/ Theresa L. Springmann
William C. Lee, Judge	Theresa L. Springmann, Judge
/s/ James T. Moody	
James T. Moody, Judge	

# CM/ECF Civil and Criminal User Manual

Electronic Means for Filing, Signing and Verification of Documents

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA



(Revised November 9, 2005)

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Northern District of Indiana Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF), hereinafter referred to as the "System". The System permits attorneys to file documents with the court from any location over the Internet. While all parties, including those proceeding pro se, may register to receive "read only" PACER accounts, only registered attorneys, as officers of the court, are permitted to file electronically at this time.

#### I. REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM ("System")

#### A. Designation of Cases

On November 1, 2003, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana began using the CM/ECF electronic filing system for all civil and criminal cases. "Electronic filing" means uploading a pleading or document directly from the registered user's computer, using the court's System, to file that pleading or document in the court's case file. Sending a document or pleading to the court via e-mail or facsimile does not constitute "electronic filing."

#### B. Registration

1. An **Attorney Registration Form**, attached as **Form 1**, shall be submitted for each attorney. The attached form may be duplicated for use. This form is also available on our web site at: www.innd.uscourts.gov. All Attorney Registration Forms shall be mailed or delivered to:

United States District Court Office of the Clerk 204 South Main Street, Room 102 South Bend, IN 46601

Attention: CM/ECF Registration.

- 2. Each attorney registering for the System will receive an internet e-mail message after their password has been assigned. This is to insure that the attorney's internet e-mail address has been entered correctly in the System. Login and password information will then be mailed to the attorney by regular, first-class mail.
- 3. An attorney's registration will constitute a waiver of conventional service of documents and the attorney agrees to accept service of notice on behalf of the client of the electronic filing by hand, facsimile or authorized email.

4. Attorneys are responsible for notifying the court when their mailing address or e-mail address changes, by filing a Notice of Change of Address in the appropriate case(s) through the System.

#### C. Passwords

Each attorney admitted to practice in this Court pursuant to L.R. 83.5 and currently in good standing shall be entitled to one System password to permit the attorney to participate in the electronic retrieval and filing of pleadings and other documents using the System. Attorneys will be able to change their own passwords.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11, every pleading, motion, and other paper (except lists, schedules, statements or amendments thereto) shall be signed by at least one attorney of record or, if the party is not represented by an attorney, all papers shall be signed by the party. An attorney's/participant's password issued by the court combined with the user's identification, serves as and constitutes the attorney/participant's signature for Rule 11 and other purposes. Therefore, an attorney/participant must protect and secure the password issued by the court. If there is any reason to suspect the password has been compromised in any way, it is the duty and responsibility of the attorney/participant to immediately notify the court by calling the CM/ECF Help Line between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. local time in order to prevent access to the System by use of the old password. (See Section V. below for help line numbers) In the event of the resignation or reassignment of the person with authority to use the password, the attorney/participant should change the password immediately.

No attorney shall knowingly permit his or her password to be utilized by anyone other than an authorized employee of his or her office. Once registered, the attorney shall be responsible for all documents filed with his or her password.

## Attorneys/participants may be subject to sanctions for failure to comply with the above provisions.

Registration for a password is governed by Paragraph I(B).

An attorney admitted *pro hac vice* must register for a password in accordance with this User Manual.

#### II. ELECTRONIC FILING AND SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

#### A. Filing

1. Unless otherwise permitted by these procedures or otherwise authorized

by the assigned judge, all documents<sup>1</sup> submitted for filing in this district in civil and criminal cases, no matter when a case was originally filed, shall be filed electronically using the System<sup>2</sup>.

- 2. Electronically filed documents must meet the same requirements of format and page limits as documents "conventionally filed" (as defined in Section III A) pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure and this court's Local Rules.
- 3. Electronically filed documents may contain hyperlink references to an external document as a convenient mechanism for accessing material cited in the document. A hyperlink reference is neither validated for content nor considered a part of the court's records. The court neither endorses the product or organization at the destination of a hyperlink reference, nor does the court exercise any responsibility over the content at the destination. In order to preserve the integrity of the court record, attorneys wishing to insert hyperlinks in court filings shall continue to use the traditional citation method for the cited authority, in addition to the hyperlink. A hyperlink contained in a filing is no more than a convenient mechanism for accessing material cited in the document and a hyperlink reference is extraneous to any filed document and is not part of the court's record.
- 4. All documents which form part of a single pleading and which are being filed at the same time and by the same party may be electronically filed together under one document number, e.g., the motion and a supporting affidavit, with the exception of memoranda in support. Memoranda in support shall be electronically filed separately and shown as a related document to the motion.
- 5. In order to file a document which requires leave of court such as an amended complaint or a document to be filed out of time, the proposed document shall be attached as an exhibit to a motion.
- 6. Filing users must submit in electronic form all documents referenced as exhibits or attachments, unless the court permits conventional filing. A filing user must submit as exhibits or attachments only those excerpts of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The requirement that "all documents" be filed electronically includes briefs, and attachments and exhibits used in support of motions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Documents filed in the CM/ECF <u>must</u> be in .pdf format. A document created with almost any word-processing program can be converted to .pdf format. The .pdf program in effect takes a picture of the original document and allows anyone to open the converted document across a broad range of hardware and software, with layout, format, links, and images intact. For information on .pdf, users may visit the websites of .pdf vendors, such as http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/ or http://www.fineprint.com/.

the referenced documents that are directly germane to the matter under consideration by the court. Excerpted material must be clearly and prominently identified as such. Filing users who file excerpts of documents as exhibits or attachments do so without prejudice to their right to timely file additional excerpts or the complete document. Responding parties may timely file additional excerpts or the complete document that they believe are directly germane. The court may require parties to file additional excerpts or the complete document.

#### **B.** Filing a Civil Complaint:

All new civil complaints must be filed conventionally on paper, accompanied by a Civil Cover Sheet (JS-44c) and summons forms with the top portion completed.. The court will upload these documents into the System. The Clerk's office will return via United States mail copies of the complaint and the completed hard copy summons forms only if counsel supplies a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The court may sign, seal and issue a summons electronically, although a summons may not be served electronically.

#### C. Filing Criminal Charges

All criminal complaints, informations, indictments and requests for issuance of warrants shall be filed conventionally on paper with the court. The court may issue a warrant or summons electronically. They may only be served in accordance with Fed.R.Crim.P. 4(c).

#### **D.** Service of Filed Documents on Parties

- 1. The System will generate a "Notice of Electronic Filing" when any document is filed. This notice represents service of the document on parties who are registered participants with the System. Except as provided in Paragraph III.B, the filing party shall not be required to serve any pleading<sup>3</sup> or other documents on any party receiving electronic notice.
- 2. The filing party shall also serve those parties not designated or able to receive electronic notice but nevertheless are entitled to notice of said pleading or other document in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Northern District of Indiana. If such service of a paper copy is to be made, it shall be done in the manner provided in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures and the Local Rules of the Northern District of Indiana.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The term "pleading" refers only to those documents listed in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 7(a).

3. A party may not electronically serve a summons and complaint, but instead must perfect service according to the Fed. R. Civ. P. 4.

#### E. Signatures

- 1. **Civil cases:** Documents which must be filed and which must contain original signatures other than those of a participating attorney or which require either verification or an unsworn declaration under any rule or statute, shall be filed electronically, with originally executed copies maintained by the filer. The pleading or other document electronically filed shall contain a signature.
- 2. Criminal cases: All documents which must contain original signatures other than those of a participating attorney or which require either verification or an unsworn declaration under any rule or statute, shall first be filed electronically with a .pdf version of the document and shall then also be filed conventionally on paper and maintained in the Clerk's office. The electronically filed document shall be completed and shall contain a signature in all places in which the original document contains a signature. The conventionally filed document shall contain original signatures and shall be accompanied by a copy of the Notice of Electronic Filing generated when the document was filed electronically. Plea agreements signed by a defendant are an example of this type of document.
- 3. In the case of a stipulation or other document to be signed by two or more attorneys, the following procedure should be used:
  - (a) The filing attorney shall initially confirm that the content of the document is acceptable to all persons required to sign the document and shall obtain the physical signatures of all attorneys on the document.
  - (b) The filing attorney then shall file the document electronically, indicating the signatories, e.g., "s/Jane Doe," "s/John Doe," etc.
  - (c) The filing attorney shall retain the hard copy of the document containing the original signatures.
  - (d) Each attorney required to sign the document, other than the attorney filing it electronically, shall file a Notice of Endorsement of the document. A sample **Notice of Endorsement** is attached as **Form 2**.

#### F. Orders

All orders issued by the court shall be filed electronically by either the office of the clerk or a judge. Any order or other court-issued document filed

electronically without the original signature of a judge or clerk has the same force and effect as if the judge or clerk had signed a paper copy of the order and it had been entered on the docket in a conventional manner. The assigned judge or the clerk's office, if appropriate, may grant routine orders by a text-only entry upon the docket. In such cases, no .pdf document will issue and the entry will contain language that no further written order will issue from the court. The text-only entry shall constitute the court's only order on the matter, is in fact an order from the judge and carries the same weight and authority as a written order signed by the judge. The System will generate a Notice of Electronic Filing for text-only entries as described in these procedures. Immediately upon the entry of an order or judgment in an action assigned to the System, the clerk will transmit to filing users in the case, in electronic form, a Notice of Electronic Filing. Electronic transmission of the Notice of Electronic Filing constitutes the notice required by Fed.R.Civ.P. 77(d). The clerk will give notice in paper form to a person who has not consented to electronic service in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

#### PROPOSED ORDERS PROCEDURE

Proposed orders shall not be filed electronically either as a separate document or as an attachment to the main pleading or other document. Instead, all proposed orders must be e-mailed to the chambers of the appropriate judicial officer for the case. The proposed order must be in WordPerfect Format or Rich Text Format (RTF).<sup>4</sup> Proposed orders should be attached to an e-mail and sent to the appropriate judicial officer at the address listed below. The subject line of the email message should indicate the case title, cause number and document number of the motion, e.g., Smith v. Jones 1:02-cv-1234, motion#.

Chief Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr. Judge Allen Sharp Judge William C. Lee Judge James T. Moody Judge Rudy Lozano Judge Philip P. Simon Judge Theresa L. Springmann Magistrate Judge Andrew P. Rodovich Magistrate Judge Roger B. Cosbey Magistrate Judge Christopher A. Nuechterlein nuechterlein chambers@innd.uscourts.gov Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry

miller chambers@innd.uscourts.gov sharp\_chambers@innd.uscourts.gov lee chambers@innd.uscourts.gov moody\_chambers@innd.uscourts.gov lozano\_chambers@innd.uscourts.gov simon chambers@innd.uscourts.gov springmann chambers@innd.uscourts.gov rodovich chambers@innd.uscourts.gov cosbey chambers@innd.uscourts.gov cherry\_chambers@innd.uscourts.gov

#### PROPOSED DISCOVERY PLANS/SCHEDULING ORDERS AND FINAL PRETRIAL ORDERS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> MS Word will allow a document to be saved in WordPerfect format or Rich Text Format (RTF).

Unlike proposed orders, Proposed Discovery Plans/Scheduling Orders and proposed Final Pretrial Orders should not contain a signature line for the Judge. The document shall include the electronic signature of the filing counsel. The non-filing party shall file a Notice of Endorsement pursuant to the guidelines in paragraph II. E.3.(d) of this manual.

#### **G.** Title of Documents

The person electronically filing a pleading or other document will be responsible for designating a title for the pleading or other document by using one of the categories contained in the Events Lists on the court's website at www.innd.uscourts.gov.

#### H. Certificate of Service

A Certificate of Service is still a requirement when filing documents electronically. A sample **Certificate of Service** is attached as **Form 3**.

#### I. Filing Deadlines

Filing documents electronically does not alter any filing deadlines or any time computation pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 6. The counties of Lake, Porter and LaPorte observe Central Daylight Savings Time in the summer, when their local time is the same as the remainder of the district. In the winter, the counties of Lake, Porter and LaPorte observe Central Standard Time, when their local time is one hour earlier than the remainder of the district. Nevertheless, all electronic transmissions of documents must be completed (*i.e.*, received completely by the clerk's office) prior to **midnight Eastern Standard Time**, (South Bend/Fort Wayne/Lafayette time) in order to be considered timely filed that day, **regardless of the local time in the division where the case is pending**. Although documents can be filed electronically 24 hours a day, filers are strongly encouraged to file all documents during hours when the CM/ECF Help Line is available, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time. (See Section V. below for help line numbers)

#### III. CONVENTIONAL FILING OF DOCUMENTS

- **A. Conventional Filings**. As used in these procedures, a "conventionally" filed or submitted document or pleading is one presented to the Clerk or a party in paper or other non-electronic, tangible format. The following documents shall be filed conventionally and not electronically unless specifically authorized by the Court:
  - 1. Document(s) to be filed under seal, including motions for leave to file documents under seal, any supporting documentation and proposed orders. See L.R. 5.3 regarding filing of documents under seal.

- 2. Exhibits and other documents which cannot be converted to a legible electronic form. Whenever possible, counsel is responsible for converting filings to an electronic form. However, if that is not physically possible, counsel shall electronically file a .pdf document titled *Notice of Manual Filing* as a notation on the docket sheet that filings are being held in the clerk's office in paper. A sample **Notice of Manual Filing** is attached as **Form 4**. If documents are filed in paper format, counsel must provide an original for the clerk's office, a copy for the judge and a copy must be served on all parties in the case. Large documents which do not exist in an electronic format shall be scanned into .pdf format by counsel, in small batches if necessary, and filed electronically as separate attachments in the System. A scanner is available in each Clerk's Office for use by the bar in scanning and saving image files on diskette if needed.
- 3. Certain documents which are listed in II. B., II. C. and II. E. 2. above.
- 4. Documents filed by pro se litigants.
- 5. Social Security administrative records.

#### **B.** Service of Conventional Filings

Pleadings or other documents which are filed conventionally rather than electronically shall be served in the manner provided for in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Northern District of Indiana, except as otherwise provided by order of the Court.

#### IV. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM DOCKET

#### A. Public Remote Access Through Pacer

Civil cases: Public remote access to the System for viewing purposes is limited to subscribers to the Public Access to Court Electronic Records ("PACER") system. The Judicial Conference of the United States has ruled that a user fee will be charged for remotely accessing certain detailed case information, such as docket sheets and filed documents. PACER users may access the System at the Court's Internet site at www.innd.uscourts.gov. Such access to the System through the Internet site will allow retrieval of the docket sheet and documents on a time delayed basis. Unless a user has a CM/ECF filing level account, access to the System will be on a "read only" basis.

**Social Security cases:** Until further order of the court, only an attorney of record may remotely view records in social security cases. Public remote access will be limited to viewing docket sheets only.

**Criminal cases:** Public remote access to non-sealed documents in criminal cases will be limited to documents filed on or after January 1, 2005, pursuant to the Judicial Conference Policy on Privacy and Public Access to Electronic Criminal Case Files. Public remote access to documents filed prior to January 1, 2005 will be limited to viewing docket sheets only.

#### **B.** Public Access at the Court

The public will have electronic access to civil and criminal documents filed in the System and to the System dockets in the Office of the Clerk, for viewing during regular business hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (local time) Monday through Friday. A copy fee for reproduction is still required in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1914.

#### C. Conventional Copies and Certified Copies

Conventional copies and certified copies of the electronically filed documents may be purchased at the Office of the Clerk, during business hours listed in Paragraph B above. A list of fees is available on the court's website at www.innd.uscourts.gov.

#### V. TECHNICAL FAILURES

#### A. The Court's System

The Clerk shall deem the Public Web site for the Northern District of Indiana to be subject to a technical failure on a given day if the site is unable to accept filings continuously or intermittently over the course of any period of time greater than one hour after 12:00 noon that day, in which case filings due that day which were not filed due solely to such technical failures shall become due the next business day. Such delayed filings shall be rejected unless accompanied by a declaration or affidavit attesting to the filing person's failed attempts to file electronically at least two times after 12:00 p.m. separated by at least one hour on each day of delay due to such technical failure. Questions about CM/ECF may be directed to our Help Line at the one of the following numbers between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time:

Fort Wayne 800-745-0265 Hammond 800-473-0293 South Bend 866-217-5925 Lafayette 877-377-1219

#### **B.** The Attorney's System

If the attorney is unable to file a document in a timely manner due to technical difficulties in the user's system, the attorney must file a document with the court as soon as possible notifying the court of the inability to file the document. A sample document entitled **Declaration** that Party was Unable to File in a Timely Manner Due to Technical Difficulties is attached hereto as Form 5.

#### VI. PRIVACY

Counsel should not include sensitive information in any document filed with the court unless such inclusion is necessary and relevant to the case. See L.R. 5.2 regarding protection of personal identifiers in civil cases and L.Cr.R. 57.1 regarding public access to criminal case information.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE TO SOCIAL SECURITY ATTORNEYS

It is the responsibility of counsel for plaintiff to provide the U.S. Attorneys' office with the social security number of the plaintiff upon the filing of a new social security case.

#### **United States District Court Northern District of Indiana**

## Case Management/Electronic Case Files Attorney Registration Form

#### LIVE SYSTEM

This form shall be used to register for an account on the Court's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) System. Registered attorneys will have privileges both to electronically submit documents, and to view and retrieve electronic docket sheets and documents for all cases assigned to the CM/ECF System. The following information is required for registration:

First/Middle/Last Name
Last four digits of Social Security Number
Are you admitted to practice and in good standing in the Northern District of Indiana?
Attorney Bar #: State:
Firm Name
Address
Voice Phone Number
FAX Phone Number
Internet E-Mail Address

By submitting this registration form, the undersigned agrees to abide by the following rules:

- 1. This System is for use only in cases permitted by the U.S. Courts for the <u>Northern District of Indiana</u>. It may be used to file and view electronic documents, docket sheets, and notices.
- 2. At this time, the requirements for filing, viewing, and retrieving case documents are: a personal computer (486 minimum) running a standard platform such as Windows, Windows 95, or Macintosh, an Internet provider using Point to Point Protocol (PPP), Netscape Navigator software version 4.5, 4.7 or 4.76 or Internet Explorer 5.5 and software

program(s) that produce and/or convert digital and/or hard copy documents into Adobe Acrobat .pdf format versions 3.0 or 4.0.

- 3. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, Every pleading, motion, and other paper (except list, schedules, statements or amendments thereto) shall be signed by at least one attorney of record or, if the party is not represented by an attorney, all papers shall be signed by the party. An attorney's password issued by the court combined with the user's identification, serves as and constitutes the attorney signature. Therefore, an attorney must protect and secure the password issued by the court. If there is any reason to suspect the password has been compromised in any way, it is the duty and responsibility of the attorney to immediately notify the court. This should include the resignation or reassignment of the person with authority to use the password. The attorney should change the password immediately.
- 4. An attorney's registration will constitute a waiver of conventional service of documents, the attorney agrees to accept service of notice on behalf of the client of the electronic filing by hand, facsimile or authorized e-mail.
- 5. The undersigned attorney agrees to abide by the most recent General Orders, User Manual for Electronic Case Filing and all technical and procedural requirements set forth therein and thus agrees to file and receive documents electronically.

Please return to:	Northern District Office of the Cla 204 South Main	et of Indiana erk Street, Room 102	
	South Bend, IN	46601	
	Attention: CM/F	ECF Registration.	
Applicant Signature			
Initial of First Name	Logt Name + Log	et 4 Divite CC#	
Initial of First Name	e + Last Name + Las	st 4 Digits SS#	
Subscribed and sworn to be	efore me this	day of	, 20
Notary			
My commission expires			

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

	DIVISION
Plaintiff(s),  VS.	) ) ) ) Case No
Defendant(s).	)
NOTICE	E OF ENDORSEMENT
Pursuant to the ECF Procedures M	Ianual, (Name of signator)
hereby certifies that my original signature	e was placed on the following document which was
filed electronically on	:
T)	Title of document)
	Attorney for (Plaintiff or Defendant) Address:

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on _	(Date)	_ I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of
the Court using the CM/ECF sy	stem which	sent notification of such filing to the following:
	and I hereby	y certify that I have mailed by United States Postal
Service the document to the foll	owing non	CM/ECF participants:
		•

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

			DIVISION
VS.	Plaintiff(s),		) ) ) ) Case No
	Defendant(s).  NOTICE OF	<u>MANU</u>	) ) AL FILING
is in paper form only	and is being maintained	l in the ca	se file in the Clerk's office.
		•	for (Plaintiff or Defendant)

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA \_\_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION

	,	)	
VS.	Plaintiff(s),	) ) ) )	Case No
	Defendant(s).	)	
<u>DE</u>			Y WAS UNABLE
	TO FILE I	N A TIMELY	MANNER
Please take n	otice that		was unable to file
	in a timely m	nanner due to techni	ical difficulties. The deadline for filing
the		was	The reason(s) that I was unable
to file the		in a tir	mely manner and the good faith efforts
I made prior to the	filing deadline to bo	oth file in a timely n	nanner and to inform the court and the
other parties that I c	could not do so are s	set forth below.	
[Sta	atement of reasons a	and good faith effor	ts to file and to inform]
I declare under pena	alty of perjury that t	he foregoing is true	e and correct.
Respectfully	submitted,		
			s/[Name of Password Registrant] Name of Password Registrant Address City, State, Zip Code Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX Fax: XXX-XXX-XXXX E-mail: XXX@XXX.XXX